LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A strand-guiding roll for supporting and guiding cast metal strands in a continuous casting installation, the roll comprising:

a central rotatable shaft;

at least one roll shell supported on and fixed against rotation on the shaft;

support rings on the shaft supporting the roll shell;

the shaft, the roll shell and the support rings being shaped to define an annular space which is axially delimited by the support rings and is formed between the shaft and the roll shell; ~~and~~

connections to the annular space for the space to be a coolant conduit via the connections; and

a rotation-preventing device passing through the annular space and shaped to secure the roll shell directly against rotation with respect to the shaft.

2. (Previously Presented) The strand-guiding roll as claimed in claim 1, further comprising sealing elements arranged between the support rings and the roll shell and between the support rings and the central shaft.

3. (Previously Presented) The strand-guiding roll as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the connections to the annular space comprising a coolant line arranged in and extending along a direction of an axis of the central shaft and radial branch lines from the coolant line, the coolant and branch lines being operable for supplying a coolant to and discharging the coolant from the annular space.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A strand-guiding roll ~~as claimed in claim 3~~ for supporting and guiding cast metal strands in a continuous casting installation, the roll comprising:

a central rotatable shaft;

at least one roll shell supported on and fixed against rotation on the shaft;

support rings on the shaft supporting the roll shell;

the shaft, the roll shell and the support rings being shaped to define an annular space which is axially delimited by the support rings and is formed between the shaft and the roll shell; and

connections to the annular space for the space to be a coolant conduit via the connections, the connections to the annular space comprising a coolant line arranged in and extending along a direction of an axis of the central shaft and radial branch lines from the coolant line, the coolant and branch lines being operable for supplying a coolant to and discharging the coolant from the annular space, wherein the support rings have respective annular grooves, the radial branch lines open out within a longitudinal extent of the support rings and into the annular grooves in the support rings, and the annular grooves in the support rings open toward the annular space, a multiplicity of outlet openings opening the annular grooves toward the space.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A strand-guiding roll ~~as claimed in claim 1~~ for supporting and guiding cast metal strands in a continuous casting installation, the roll comprising:

a central rotatable shaft;

at least one roll shell supported on and fixed against rotation on the shaft;

support rings on the shaft supporting the roll shell;

the shaft, the roll shell and the support rings being shaped to define an annular space which is axially delimited by the support rings and is formed between the shaft and the roll shell; and

connections to the annular space for the space to be a coolant conduit via the connections, wherein two of the support rings support the at least one roll shell on the shaft, the two support rings are connected to form a support-ring sleeve, and the annular space has an axial extent which is delimited by the support rings, the annular space being formed between the roll shell and the support-ring sleeve.

7. (Previously Presented) The strand-guiding roll as claimed in claim 6, further comprising sealing elements arranged between the support rings connected by the support-ring sleeve and the roll shell and between the support rings and the central shaft.

8. (Previously Presented) The strand-guiding roll as claimed in claim 6, further comprising the connections to the annular space comprising a coolant line arranged in and extending along a direction of an axis of the central shaft and radial branch lines from the coolant line, the coolant and branch lines being operable for supplying a coolant to and discharging the coolant from the annular space.

9. (Previously Presented) The strand-guiding roll as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a rotation-preventing device passing through the annular space and shaped to secure the roll shell against rotation with respect to the shaft.

10. (Previously Presented) The strand-guiding roll as claimed in claim 3, further comprising the central shaft has opposite end regions; the coolant line for supplying coolant runs within the central shaft starts from one end region of the central shaft, and a coolant line for discharging coolant arranged in the central shaft opens out at the opposite end region of the central shaft.

11. (Previously Presented) The strand-guiding roll as claimed in claim 3, further comprising the central shaft has opposite end regions; respective ones of the coolant lines for supply and for discharge of coolant, the coolant lines run within the central shaft and both coolant lines open out in one of the end regions of the central shaft.

12. (Previously Presented) The strand-guiding roll as claimed in claim 7, wherein the support rings have respective annular grooves, and the sealing elements comprise sealing rings inserted in the annular grooves in the roll shell.

13. (Previously Presented) The strand-guiding roll as claimed in claim 5, wherein the rotation prevention device comprises a feather key.

14. (Currently Amended) The A strand-guiding roll ~~as claimed in claim 2~~ for supporting and guiding cast metal strands in a continuous casting installation, the roll comprising:

a central rotatable shaft;

at least one roll shell supported on and fixed against rotation on the shaft;

support rings on the shaft supporting the roll shell;

the shaft, the roll shell and the support rings being shaped to define an annular space which is axially delimited by the support rings and is formed between the shaft and the roll shell;

connections to the annular space for the space to be a coolant conduit via the connections; and

sealing elements arranged between the support rings and the roll shell and between the support rings and the central shaft, wherein the support rings have respective annular grooves, and the sealing elements comprise sealing rings inserted in the annular grooves in the roll shell.

15. (Currently Amended) The strand-guiding roll as claimed in claim 10, further comprising each of the coolant lines has a respective [[a]] rotary connection piece as a connection thereof.

16. (Currently Amended) The strand-guiding roll as claimed in claim 11, further comprising the coolant lines have a respective [[a]] rotary connection piece as a connection thereof.